Belgian dancer stages ballet for Company

By Elizabeth Freund

"Dancing is natural; it is like talking, walking, sitting," said international freelance choreographer Marc Bogaerts. "In dancing and choreography, it all comes together."

Bogaerts, a native of Belgium, came to Creighton last Friday to stage Gabrielle Faure's "Requiem," a 20-minute liturgical piece for Creighton's Company of Dancers. The ballet, featuring 20 dancers, will be performed November 19, 20 and 21.

It was on the recommendation of Dennis Wayne of the Dancer's School in New York that Bogaerts came to Creighton. Wayne is a mutual friend of Bogaerts' and Valerie Roche, director of A Company of Dancers.

The ballet is dedicated to Boys Town and the Uta Halee Girls Village because Bogaerts, who researched what Omaha meant prior to visiting, said it is only proper to create a dance in relation to the place in which he is working.

"Omaha means going against the river," Bogaerts said. "These youngsters are going against the river of their lives."

Although no commitment has been made for Boys Town and Uta Halee to view the performance, both villages have been contacted and it is hoped that some groups of students will see the ballet, Roche said.

"Requiem" took surprisingly little time to choreograph, he said. Since it only took three days to stage, Bogaerts will be able to help the company rehearse. He said he usually stages a piece for a company but never gets to see it because he is on his way to another job.

Pleased with Creighton

Creighton's company was a pleasure to work with, Bogaerts said. Because each company has its own level of accomplishment, there is no sense in criticizing a company, he said.

"I must be up on choreography in order to be flexible to work with each level," Bogaerts said. "My task is to make you look good. To say, 'you look awful' would be too easy. It's a challenge."

Each company is composed of varying talent, and it is important not to try to give a false impression, Bogaerts said. The dancers in Creighton's company are well prepared and open-minded, which reflects on the training they received here, he said.

"Students reflect their teachers," Bogaerts said. "Valerie (Roche) is a very good teacher."

Even as a choreographer, Bogaerts takes dance classes to keep abreast of what's happening in dance.

"I am convinced that when you stop taking class, you stop evolution; your style stops," Bogaerts said. "It gets as boring as hell if you stop dancing."

From BACH TO ROCK
RECORDS AND TAPE
ALUMNI LIBRERY